

RECOGNIZING THE NEXT GENERATION OF MARINE INNOVATORS:

Introducing the 8th Annual Marine Sciences Scholarship Award Recipients

In February 2019, the American Salvage Association (ASA) and the North American Marine Environment Protection Association (NAMEPA) launched their 8th Annual Marine Sciences Scholarship Program. Each year, this initiative opens the door for high school and undergraduate students to demonstrate their passions for marine sciences by participating either individually or as a team. For nearly a decade, this program has worked to highlight the importance of preserving the marine environment through the use of sound environmental practices, raise awareness of the art and sciences of marine salvage and engineering, and to promote careers within the greater maritime industry.

Each submission is reviewed and scored by a technical committee of maritime and marine industry experts and is evaluated on a wide range of criteria including originality, data collection, supporting evidence, and tangibility within the real-world environment. This year's judging panel included representatives from the American Bureau of Shipping, Global Diving & Salvage, the Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA), T&T Salvage, and several of NAMEPA's education outreach coordinators. Each year the panel of judges convene to reflect on the submissions received and the promise each brings to the future of the marine industry and this year, just as in years past, each judge was left with an overwhelming sensation of comfort. Comfort in knowing that tomorrow's marine workforce is more prepared than any to carry the torch and continue pushing the boundaries of innovation, environmental sustainability, and diversification.



Winning students are not only provided with a financial scholarship award to help further their education and research, but they are also provided with the opportunity to be flown to New York City to attend NAMEPA's Annual Conference & Awards Dinner. As is tradition, this event took place on October 24th aboard the historic M/V HORNBLOWER INFINITY and this year, drew focus on the coming decade of decarbonization facing the maritime industry. With over 100 high profile industry representatives in attendance, five of the six scholarship recipients were recognized and honored for their award-winning research:

High School Category Winners:

- **1st Place:** Kyle Bramblett | Titusville High School | Titusville, Florida
Submission Titled: A Concrete Solution for Oyster Recruitment and Growth: Designing an Artificial Structure to Increase Oyster Shell Growth and Oyster Spat Settlement using Calcite Media
- **2nd Place:** Clara Victorio | The Woodlands College Park High School | Woodlands, Texas
Submission Titled: Removing Microplastics From Wastewater: Increasing the Efficiency of Electrocoagulation
- ****3rd Place:** Sabrina Li | Walnut High School | Walnut, California
Submission Titled: Effects of Baycrete Texture and Tidal Elevation on Recruitment of Native *Ostrea Lurida* and Nonindigenous *Balanus Amphitrite* in San Diego, CA

Undergraduate Category Winners:

- **1st Place:** Matthew Lynch | United States Merchant Marine Academy | Annapolis, Maryland
Submission Titled: Subsea Performance Efficiency In Robotics Applications
- **2nd Place:** Cyd Bloomfield | Stony Brook University | Brooklyn, New York
Submission Titled: Sequencing New York Harbor: Effects of Salinity Gradients on Biodiversity
- **3rd Place:** Alex Miller | Massachusetts Institute of Technology | Seattle, Washington
Submission Titled: SimpleModem: A Low Cost Acoustic Modem Implementation for Remote Sensing Applications

*** 3^d place high school category winner, Ms. Sabrina Li, was unable to attend NAMEPA's Annual Conference & Awards Dinner.*

ASA and NAMEPA will be collaborating again in 2020 to host its 9th Annual Marine Sciences Scholarship Competition to continue to honor and recognized the hardworking student researchers for their contributions to the marine sciences and maritime industry.

NAMEPA Mission Statement:

The North American Marine Environment Protection Association (NAMEPA) is a marine industry-led organization of environmental stewards preserving the marine environment by promoting sustainable marine industry best practices and educating seafarers, students and the public about the need and strategies for protecting global ocean, lake and river resources. For more information, go to www.namepa.net

American Salvage Association Education Committee Mission Statement:

The American Salvage Association's (ASA) Education Committee is committed to promoting general maritime industry interest with a focus on marine salvage, and to help develop maritime industry expertise through interactive experience with ASA salvage professionals. The Committee's goal is to support career development in all maritime disciplines inclusive of, but not limited to, the development of both licensed and unlicensed seafarers, encouragement for licensed officers to reach senior officer status and to gain experience at sea. For non-seafarers, the promotion of math, sciences, engineering, naval architecture, diving, environmental sciences, robotics, marine insurance, maritime law, ocean engineering, accounting, logistics, and other related fields.